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Letter dated 5 April 2002 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has received the attached report from Tajikistan, submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jeremy **Greenstock**
Chairman
Counter-Terrorism Committee

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Annex

Letter dated 28 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

I have the honour to enclose herewith the report of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Counter-Terrorism Committee established pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (see enclosure).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and the enclosed report circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rashid **Alimov**
Ambassador

Enclosure

[Original: Russian]

Report of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001 concerning counter-terrorism

The adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001 concerning counter-terrorism was a timely and adequate reaction on the part of the international community to the unprecedented, cruel and inhuman terrorist acts committed by the forces of international terrorism in the United States of America on 11 September 2001.

In Tajikistan, these terrorist acts were regarded as being in blatant defiance of progressive humanity.

The reaction of the leaders and peoples of the overwhelming majority of States and the counter-terrorism operation of the United States of America and the international coalition forces in the territory of the Islamic State of Afghanistan aimed at eliminating the extremist Taliban regime and the terrorist bases of al-Qa'idah demonstrate that a new phase of resistance by civilized humanity to international terrorist and extremist forces has begun.

Notwithstanding its complex internal political situation, low economic level and other problems, the Republic of Tajikistan, from its first days as an independent State, has taken a position of principle with regard to the resolution of the intra-Afghan conflict. The President of Tajikistan, Mr. Emomali Rakhmonov, has put forward an initiative and, at high-level international forums, including the United Nations General Assembly, has consistently upheld our State's position concerning the reactionary nature of the Taliban movement and the need to prevent and suppress terrorist threats emanating from Afghanistan and to create a so-called "security belt" around that State.

The Republic of Tajikistan has taken an active part in resolving issues relating to Afghanistan within the "six plus two" group.

Our State, which has an extensive border and close historical, ethnic and cultural ties with Afghanistan, has been in the front line of the war on terrorism from the very beginning and has experienced at first hand the calamities and grave consequences resulting from [the actions of] international terrorists and extremists and from the illicit proliferation of arms and narcotic drugs.

Even when the Taliban movement controlled more than 90 per cent of the territory of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Tajikistan recognized Mr. Burhanuddin Rabbani as the legitimate President of Afghanistan, provided support to the Northern Alliance in its struggle with the Taliban and firmly and steadfastly asserted its position.

The prescience of this position of Tajikistan's was confirmed by the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001 concerning counter-terrorism.

This important international instrument has been adopted as guidance and accepted for implementation by the competent State structures of the Republic of Tajikistan.

Tajikistan is fulfilling all its obligations under the international conventions and multilateral and bilateral treaties and agreements it has signed on counter-terrorism issues.

Work is being undertaken continuously on the drafting of laws and other normative acts regulating efforts to combat terrorism. Anti-terrorist measures, as well as the activities of the country's law enforcement authorities in this area, are conducted on the basis, inter alia, of the acts of the Republic of Tajikistan "On combating terrorism" and "On weapons" and the decrees of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan "On measures to intensify efforts to combat crime and to strengthen law and order" and "On urgent measures to combat the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs".

Tajikistan is fulfilling all the obligations deriving from the Programme of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to Combat International Terrorism and Other Forms of Extremism up to the Year 2003 and the Inter-State Programme of Joint Measures to Combat Crime for the Period 2000-2003. Similar State programmes are being implemented at the national level. The Anti-Terrorist Centre established in 2000 in Moscow, Russian Federation, by decision of the CIS heads of State has begun to carry out its functional tasks, as has its regional subdivision in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, to which Tajikistan has sent its representative.

Tajikistan supports the initiative to establish an anti-terrorist centre of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and is participating, at the expert level, in the drafting of the appropriate documents.

Following the barbaric acts in the United States of America on 11 September 2001, Tajikistan was among the first to express condemnation and to declare its readiness to participate in the international community's counter-terrorist measures. The leadership of our State agreed to place Tajikistan's territory, airports and airspace at the disposal of the international community for use in anti-terrorist operations. It was also announced that we would support and provide assistance with the implementation of humanitarian actions.

Given Tajikistan's geopolitical position and its role in the inter-Afghan political settlement process and the comprehensive resolution of the Afghan problem, the leadership of our State is taking energetic, consistent and multifaceted measures and conducting active consultations and negotiations with the legitimate leaders of Afghanistan and other States interested in the speedy stabilization of the situation in that long-suffering country.

In recent years, Tajikistan has been directly confronted with the problems of combating terrorism; it has acquired quite broad experience and achieved concrete practical results in this area. The Republic's special services and law enforcement authorities have created a database on international terrorist and extremist organizations, their members, the nature and aims of their activities, the methods and means of preparing and committing terrorist acts, the channels used to transport weapons and other instruments of terror, and terrorist movements.

It should be noted that, during the period of political and military confrontation in Tajikistan, bases and camps were established and operated in the territory of the Islamic State of Afghanistan for the purpose of training terrorists and saboteurs, including some Tajik nationals, who were subsequently dispatched to Tajikistan, where they committed hostile acts. Documentary evidence of this is contained in materials from numerous criminal cases relating to acts of terrorism and sabotage. Testimony obtained from detained members of terrorist groups during the investigation of the criminal cases bears witness to the fact that, over a number of years, several thousand individuals from many countries of the world received training in terrorism and sabotage from experienced instructors in training camps and bases in the territory of Afghanistan. Consequently, the war on international terrorism should not be limited to the destruction of al-Qa'idah bases and of the Taliban movement, and it is essential that it should be waged single-mindedly, consistently and actively by the appropriate services of all countries.

Tajikistan is fulfilling the obligations it has assumed within the framework of multilateral and bilateral treaties in respect of the planning and implementation of joint operational-search, procedural and investigative measures, the hunt for terrorists, and the exchange of operational information, etc.

Close and fruitful relations in this area have been established between the relevant services of our Republic and their counterparts in the Russian Federation, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Ukraine, and there are prospects for the successful development of cooperation with the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India and other States. There has been an intensification of contacts in these areas with the special services of the United States of America, Germany, France and other countries of the anti-terrorist coalition.

Special attention is given to the prevention of crimes of a terrorist nature. Measures to bar persons belonging to terrorist organizations from entering the territory of Tajikistan were already in place but were made significantly tougher following the commencement of the counter-terrorist operation in the Islamic State of Afghanistan. In coordination with the Russian border police, the technical and operational protection of the State border with Afghanistan has been strengthened and enhanced measures of control over the procedures for the issuance and drawing up of documents, entry and exit visas are being implemented.

The financial operations and accounts of organizations, firms and private individuals deemed suspicious are being subjected to careful scrutiny with a view to the possible detection and suppression of channels of financial support for terrorist ends.

Given the presence in the Republic of Tajikistan for a number of years of a large Afghan diaspora, mostly refugees, and in the light of operational information that supporters of the Taliban movement and persons belonging to international terrorist organizations may be hiding in the guise of refugees, this category of persons is being re-registered. Tajikistan is expecting that, in the future, as the situation stabilizes and State power is consolidated in Afghanistan, the issue of the return of Afghan refugees to their homeland will be successfully resolved, with the assistance of the new Afghan Government.

There is a need to emphasize, in the context of efforts to combat terrorism, the urgent requirement for effective measures to counteract the illicit proliferation of

narcotic drugs. It is well known that, as a result of the instability in the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the virtual paralysis of the State authorities and the criminal opportunism of the leadership of the Taliban movement, in recent years this country has produced more than half of the world's supply of narcotic drugs, some of which were transported across the territory of the Republic of Tajikistan to the countries of Europe.

The leadership of the Republic of Tajikistan has stated repeatedly from the rostrums of authoritative international organizations, including the United Nations, that there is a need to consolidate the efforts of the international community to combat this scourge. On the initiative of the President of Tajikistan, Mr. Emomali Rakhmonov, and with the support of the United Nations, a Drug Control Agency has been established in our country and is functioning successfully within the Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan. There have been a number of presidential decrees and orders aimed at toughening the punishments for the commission of crimes linked to terrorism and the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs, and the criminal and criminal-procedural laws of the Republic of Tajikistan have been supplemented and amended to that end.

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan "On the voluntary surrender and removal from the population of the Republic of Tajikistan of firearms, ammunition and military hardware", issued in December 1994, has played a major role. The efforts to implement this Decree are directly linked to the overall problem of terrorism and are among the priority activities of the Republic's law enforcement authorities. The significant successes achieved in this area are confirmed by the stabilization of the situation in the Republic and the intensification of the process of establishing a democratic civil society in Tajikistan.

To sum up, it should be emphasized that the Republic of Tajikistan remains true to its position concerning the need to combine the efforts of the international community to combat all forms of terrorism, extremism and violence, irrespective of the political or other aims by which they are justified.

Tajikistan confirms its readiness to fulfil all the obligations it has assumed under the Security Council resolution concerning counter-terrorism, international agreements and normative acts and to continue and expand international cooperation on issues relating to the counteracting of terrorism and extremism, and it is open to discussion on all proposals regarding this problem.

This report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001.

(*Signed*) S. **Zukhurov**
Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan